

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 122493
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 IGA-02
DHA-02 MC-02 ACDA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /070 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:DPSULLIVAN:PAW
APPROVED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK
H:ASWIFT (SUBSTANCE)
-----270612Z 071565 /17

R 270021Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS STATE 122493

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, SHUM, RP

SUBJ: HOUSE FLOOR DEBATE ON PHILIPPINE SECURITY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REFS: A. STATE 119345, B. STATE 121525

1. FOR EMBASSY INFORMATION, FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF
COMMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVE BEDELL ON PHILIPPINE SECURITY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DURING HOUSE FLOOR DEBATE MAY 23 ON
SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION BILL:

2. QUOTE (MR. BEDELL ASKED AND WAS GIVEN PERMISSION TO
REVISE AND EXTEND HIS REMARKS.)

QUOTE MR. BEDELL. MR. CHAIRMAN, THERE IS INCREASING CON-
CERN AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OVER THE CONTINUING REPORTS OF VIOLATIONS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL FREEDOM BY THE MARCOS REGIME
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 122493

IN THE PHILIPPINES.

QUOTE JUST LAST WEEK I MET WITH A GROUP OF CHURCH ORGANIZA-
TIONS WHICH ARE EXTREMELY DISTURBED OVER WHAT IS HAPPENING
IN THE PHILIPPINES AND ARE COMMITTED TO CHANGING THIS
DEPLORABLE SITUATION.

QUOTE MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO OFFER AN AMENDMENT TODAY WHICH WOULD HAVE REDUCED OUR MILITARY AID TO THE PHILIPPINES. MY OFFICE HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF CALLS FROM OTHER MEMBERS WHO ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE PHILIPPINES AND WANTED TO SUPPORT SUCH AN AMENDMENT. HOWEVER, FOR REASONS I WILL GET TO IN A MINUTE, I HAVE DECIDED NOT TO OFFER THE AMENDMENT AT THIS TIME.

QUOTE I KNOW THAT MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES WILL BE DISAPPOINTED WITH THIS DECISION. BUT, AFTER A GREAT DEAL OF REFLECTION, I THINK IT WOULD BE WISER TO GIVE THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION SOME TIME TO INSTITUTE ITS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED POLICY OF CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS BEFORE WE IN THE CONGRESS TAKE ACTION. CERTAINLY, PRESIDENT CARTER'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ARE IMPRESSIVE AND I BELIEVE THEY REFLECT THE FEELINGS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. HOWEVER, THE ADMINISTRATION'S STANCE IS RADICALLY NEW AND DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE PAST TWO ADMINISTRATIONS, AND IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO IMPLEMENT. I FEEL THIS ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE GIVEN ONE YEAR IN WHICH TO ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

QUOTE I WOULD WANT IT TO BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT BY WITHHOLDING MY AMENDMENT, I AM NOT INDICATING A DECREASE IN CONCERN ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES BECAUSE THIS IS SIMPLY NOT THE CASE. ON THE CONTRARY, I THINK I SPEAK FOR MANY AMERICANS WHO ARE APPALLED BY WHAT THEY ARE READING IN THE NEWSPAPERS ABOUT THE TORTURE AND REPRESSION OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 122493

THE MARCOS REGIME. MANY OF US FEEL THAT INCREASING AMERICAN MILITARY AID TO REGIMES LIKE THIS IS PARTICULARLY INAPPROPRIATE NOW, ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF THE PHILIPPINES WHERE THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY EXTERNAL MILITARY THREAT.

QUOTE MR. CHAIRMAN, I COULD SPEND A LOT OF TIME CATALOGING THE STORIES OF TERROR AND BRUTALITY THAT ABOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES. SUCH STORIES COULD EASILY FILL TODAY'S CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. WE ALL KNOW THAT AT ONE TIME, THE PHILIPPINES HAD A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT BUT THAT IT ENDED IN THE FALL OF 1972. AT THAT TIME PRESIDENT MARCOS, HAVING EXHAUSTED THE NUMBER OF TERMS HE WAS ALLOWED TO BE PRESIDENT UNDER THE PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION, SIMPLY DECLARED MARTIAL LAW, DISSOLVED THE CONGRESS AND DRASTICALLY CURTAILED THE LIBERTIES OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE.

QUOTE WITHIN THE PAST WEEK OR SO THERE HAVE BEEN STORIES IN THE NATIONAL PRESS ABOUT THE EXAMPLES OF THIS

REPRESSION. VERY RECENTLY, FOR INSTANCE, MRS. TRINIDAD

HERRERA, THE BEST KNOWN LEADER OF MANILA'S 1 MILLION SLUM DWELLERS WAS ABDUCTED BY THE MILITARY UNDER EXTREMELY FLIMSY CHARGES. SHE WAS ONE OF HUNDREDS OF RANDOM ARRESTS MADE BY THE PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES IN AN EFFORT TO AVERT A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION IN MANILA.

QUOTE DURING HER 2-WEEK DETENTION, SHE WAS BRUTALLY TORTURED AND SUBJECTED TO EXTENSIVE ELECTRIC SHOCKS TO SENSITIVE PARTS OF HER BODY. SHE CAME OUT OF THIS ORDEAL A VIRTUAL VEGETABLE, ACCORDING TO HER LAWYER, AND WAS ONLY ABLE TO SIT AND STARE BLANKLY WITH TEARS ROLLING DOWN HER FACE.

QUOTE UNFORTUNATELY, MRS. HERRERA IS NOT ALONE. THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF OTHER SIMILAR TRAGEDIES. AMERICAN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 122493

MISSIONARIES HAVE ESTIMATED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY MORE THAN 53,000 POLITICAL ARRESTS SINCE 1972 AND THAT AS MANY AS 15,000 PEOPLE MAY STILL BE HELD IN PRISONS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES. OTHER PEOPLE HAVE SIMPLY DISAPPEARED AND HAVE NEVER BEEN HEARD FROM AGAIN.

QUOTE MR. CHAIRMAN, I DO NOT FEEL THAT THIS CONGRESS OR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE ASKED TO SUBSIDIZE SUCH AN ODIIOUS REGIME WITH THEIR TAX DOLLARS. ALTHOUGH I AM NOT OFFERING AN AMENDMENT AT THIS TIME, I WANT TO VOICE MY STRONGEST CONCERN AND REQUEST THE ASSURANCE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE VERY CAREFULLY ASSESSED BEFORE WE ARE ASKED TO AUTHORIZE ANY MORE MILITARY AID TO THE PHILIPPINES. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE CHAIRMAN GIVE US AN ASSURANCE THAT UNLESS THERE IS MATERIAL PROGRESS IN THE RESTORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL FREEDOM IN THE PHILIPPINES THAT THERE WILL BE NO GUARANTEE WHATSOEVER THAT U.S. MILITARY AID THERE WILL CONTINUE AT THE PRESENT LEVEL.

QUOTE MR. ZABLOCKI. MR. CHAIRMAN, I CAN ASSURE THE GENTLEMAN FROM IOWA THAT AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST WE SHALL CONTINUE TO REVIEW THE PROGRAMS TO ALL COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF THE PHILIPPINES. I CAN ASSURE THE GENTLEMAN IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS CERTAINLY IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS THE COMMITTEE WILL CAREFULLY REVIEW U.S. MILITARY PROGRAMS BEFORE SUCH ASSISTANCE IS AUTHORIZED.

QUOTE MR. FINDLEY. MR. CHAIRMAN, WILL THE GENTLEMAN YIELD?

QUOTE MR. ZABLOCKI. I YIELD TO THE GENTLEMAN FROM ILLINOIS.

QUOTE MR. FINDLEY. MR. CHAIRMAN, I THANK THE GENTLEMAN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 122493

FOR YIELDING.

QUOTE I DO SO TO COMPLIMENT THE GENTLEMAN FROM IOWA FOR BRINGING TO THE COMMITTEE'S ATTENTION A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION OF FOREIGN POLICY. END QUOTE

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBATES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SECURITY, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE122493
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DPSULLIVAN:PAW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770189-0954
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977059/aaaaahfd.tel
Line Count: 188
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dd6c179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 119345, 77 STATE 121525
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2628858
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOUSE FLOOR DEBATE ON PHILIPPINE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
TAGS: MASS, SHUM, RP
To: MANILA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dd6c179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009